Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, lines 13-20 of the amended specification with the following amended paragraph:

-- Figure 1 shows a possible use of the method according to the present invention. A first router ROUT1 inserts an STM-256/OC-768 signal DSA into a pulse frame PR256 (Fig. 2), delivered with a bit rate of approx. 40 Gbit/s. This signal is divided byte by byte into four concatenated subsignals IMA1 to IMA4, after omission of bytes NU, A1, A2, NU according to Figure 2, in a demultiplexer DMUX (inverse ~~demultiplexer~~multiplexer) so that bytes I11, I21, I31, I41, I12, I22,... of the original 256/OC-768 signal DSA are evenly allocated to pulse frames PR64.1 to PR64.4. --

Please replace the paragraph on page 3, lines 5-15 of the amended specification with the following amended paragraph:

-- The first payload byte 1537 of the STM-256/OC-768 signal or, respectively, the first byte of the subsignal IMA1, is inserted as byte I11 at position 377 in the first STM64/OC-192 pulse frame PR64.1; the payload byte 1538 of the STM-256/OC-768 signal located at position 1538 or, respectively, the first byte of subsignal IMA2, is inserted as byte I21 at position 377 of the second STM64/OC-192 pulse frame PR64.2 etc. until the byte of position 1541 is again inserted as byte I12 at position 378 of the first pulse frame PR64.1 etc. Other bytes of the signal IMA1 are inserted in the first row Z1 from column 379 to column 384 and again from column 387 etc. of pulse frame PR64.1. After that, further bytes of subsignal IMA1 are inserted in the second row from column 2 to column 192, from column 194 to column ~~394~~ 384 and from column 386 as can be seen in Figure 2. --